

The Talk

Come to My Garden

God celebrates sex as a gift to His children (Song of Solomon 4:1-16). The Bible doesn't just allow or tolerate sex, but actually celebrates the beauty, sanctity and joy of sex within a covenant marriage relationship between a man and a woman. Unfortunately, our culture – like the ancient worship of Baal, Aphrodite, or Venus – has made sex a god. The church, in reaction to culture, has historically deemed sex as gross or negative, a view that still lingers and affects Christians today. Sex is intended by God to be very good within the boundaries of marriage, and it is a powerful tool He has given married couples to grow in oneness.

GETTING STARTED

How and when did you first learn about sex (e.g. parents, friends, a TV Show, etc.), and would you say it was a positive or negative experience? What was your initial impression of sex, and how has that changed as you have grown older?

GO DEEPER

1. According to 1 Timothy 5:2, we are to treat one another as brothers or sisters in Christ. If you are married, did friendship exist between you and your spouse before you pursued one another romantically? In what ways does it benefit a relationship to be friends before becoming romantic, and what might be the pitfalls of not having a friendship before romance or marriage?
2. Even though God celebrates sex within the boundaries of marriage, our culture and the church have fallen into two very different extremes when approaching their views of sexuality. Culture screams that sex is a *god*, whereas the church often sees sex as *gross*. How have these two extremes influenced your view of sex?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. From Genesis 1:31 and Matthew 15:19-20, sex is very good within the loving boundaries God has created. In what ways have you experienced the gift of sex within your marriage? In your singleness, what steps did you or are you taking to preserve the gift of sex for marriage?
2. How has sex brought you together in oneness as a married couple? In what ways has it brought tension? If you are not married, how have opposing views on sexuality affected your relationships or friendships?
3. If you have struggled with sexual experiences in the past, or are currently struggling, how has God redeemed those experiences or how is He leading you towards redeeming the gift of sex for your marriage?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to pray over the marriages or future marriages of the people in your group. Thank the Lord for the beauty of what He has created in sex, and ask Him to bless the hearts and minds in your group with the desire to celebrate what God has created covenant marriage to truly be.

BLESS

Ask God to highlight someone who you can begin praying for. Maybe it is someone who needs to receive a blessing in their marriage. Ask Him for wisdom in how to pray.